



# Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, May 13, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

## **SOD Report:**

Trace forward surveys continue and a national survey is getting underway as PPQ determines the distribution of *Phytophthora ramorum*.

*P. ramorum* has been confirmed in plants traced forward from the initially positive Los Angeles County wholesaler in 97 facilities in 14 states. The numbers of nurseries or garden centers with positive trace forward samples from the wholesaler by state are California (38), Alabama (1), Florida (5), Washington (6), Oregon (9), Texas (5), Colorado (1), Georgia (13), Louisiana (5), Maryland (1), North Carolina (9), New Mexico (1), Tennessee (2), and Virginia (1).

The number of confirmed positive facilities from the trace forward, national, and other surveys is 118 in 14 states.

Fourteen states continue to impose quarantine regulations over and above those ordered by PPQ on California, and in some cases Oregon, Washington or British Columbia. North Carolina and Oregon have enacted regulations that parallel the PPQ emergency order. Although CDFA's web site reported on May 4 that Utah had amended its quarantine to parallel the PPQ emergency order, Utah reports that they have not changed their regulation.

\$17.8 million in CCC, PPQ and contingency funds were distributed this week to support the emergency action and national survey.

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## **APHIS Native American Working Group Meeting Report:**

A meeting of the APHIS Native American Working Group (ANAWG) took place in Jackson, Wyoming with good participation from PPQ field and headquarters personnel. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society's national conference. ANAWG state representatives learned what

activities involving outreach and interactions with tribes are occurring in various states, how to make contact and develop relationships with tribal leaders, and what APHIS' responsibilities are in consulting with tribes. Annabelle Romero, the USDA Director of Native American Programs addressed the group and attended all the sessions. Presentations to our group were made by tribal members Norman Sarabia from Juneau, Alaska on the Tlingit culture and by Jerry Lunak, Director of Agriculture for the Blackfeet Nation, Montana who discussed creative outreach in Indian Country. Also discussed was the ANAWG Strategic Plan and APHIS' need for Memoranda of Understanding with agricultural tribes in order to gain cooperation and understand roles during plant and animal health emergencies.

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## **Emerald Ash Borer Report:** **Indiana:**

Ash trees in the Jelly Stone Campground near Fremont, Indiana have been scouted by USDA, DNR, and extension personnel. Less than 10 trees have been found with evidence of Emerald Ash Borer thus far, but there is indication there this is a multi-year infestation. One tree was extremely riddled with damage from the pest, and there are infestation sites radiating out from this area, both are 1/4 mile each to the north and to the east from this tree, where larvae have been found. Additional survey in a three to four mile area surrounding the campground is proposed for delimitation.

Indiana is also placing girdled trap trees at a site in Winchester, IN, 30 miles south of Ft. Wayne, where some Michigan nursery stock yield a dead EAB adult and one gallery earlier this year.

## **Ohio:**

The Hicksville area ash tree removal has just been completed; grinding and clean up activities are in progress in the Columbus area; and, tree cutting and removal continues in Toledo.

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## **ALB Critical Issues Report:**

### **Illinois:**

Soil injection chemical treatment under the Chicago East contract is nearing completion. The contractor will then start the application of trunk injection treatments to host trees that were not suited for soil injection.

The treatment contract for Chicago West began this week. TruGreen ChemLawn was awarded this contract.

The Volunteer Survey Contract was awarded for the Chicago area of Illinois. The purpose of this contract is to design, develop, and implement an organized volunteer survey program using local residents and organizations in the Chicago area to perform survey work during the summer months when adult beetles are present. The volunteer survey is intended to be an enhancement and extension of the program's formalized surveys where all host trees are closely inspected for infestation using bucket trucks and tree climbers. The public in Chicago has been a great asset to the program since ALB was first discovered in 1998 by reporting live ALB adults. The new infestation found last year around the Oz Park area was the direct result of a live adult beetle found by a local resident.

Good media coverage has been provided for the IL treatment program. Articles on treatment applications were printed in the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, and Kane County Chronicle. Coverage on chemical treatments and the success of the eradication program was aired by WBBM News Talk Radio, WGN News Radio, and WFLD-TV FOX 32.

### **New York:**

Soil injection chemical treatments began in Manhattan and Queens on May 5, 2004. The Davey Tree Expert Company is performing the treatments in New York. There has been good press coverage on the New York treatment program. The APHIS press release announcing the New York treatments was published on April 30, 2004. NY1 Cable News ran stories on the chemical treatments on May 3rd and May 5th. Also on May 5, a photographer with the New York Times took photographs of the treatment program in operation. On

May 5 and May 6, WABC-TV Channel 7 provided television coverage of the treatment applications.

### **New Jersey:**

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County was recognized for their production of the ALB CD-ROM Titled "Wanted: Asian Longhorned Beetle". They were awarded the National Silver Medal (2nd place) Outstanding Educational Materials Award in the Computerized Graphics category by the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP). The ANREP is a national association for Cooperative Extension Service (CES) professionals working in environmental education, fisheries, forestry, wood sciences, range, recreation, waste management, water, wildlife, and related disciplines. Members are active and retired CES employees at the county, area, state, or national level. The award will be presented at the 4th Natural Resource Extension Professionals Conference in Wheeling, WV, May 16-19, 2004.

## **Giant African Snail Report:**

A nine-day SITC blitz was completed on 25 April 2004 in Wisconsin. One-hundred and one schools, 133 pet stores, 12 exotic animal shows, 12 animal swap meets, 19 miscellaneous gatherings (e.g., markets) were included. Twelve snails were detected and identified as giant African snails (GALS). Initially, the SITC 800 number that was listed in a widely-distributed AP Wire story on 04/26/2004 averaged 75 calls and 12 referrals to GALS per day in the WI area.

In Ohio, a Toledo nature and technology center reported having approximately 24-30 adult snails in its possession. A few of the snails were frozen, and some were distributed to students. These were recalled by the center, and most have been returned. A few snails have been collected by the county health department and have been frozen.

PPQ is not asking citizens to destroy their snails, but is advising them to turn the snails in to their State Plant Health Directors' offices. Currently the states reporting callers with information concerning GALS are: WI, MI,



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OH, IL, IN, PA, SC, TX, AZ, with confirmed GALS in WI, IN and OH.

Centers for Disease Control have posted information linked to their main page: (<http://www.cdc.gov/>) to address the human health concerns associated with these snails, and LPA has added the giant African snail to the APHIS level web site under "Hot Issues" with links to SPHDs.

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## **Incident Command Training (ICS) Update:**

USDA-sanctioned web-based ICS training for PPQ is slated to begin by June 1, 2004:

Ms. Cynthia Bezz of the OCIO, and AgLearn Program Manager, and Craig Power of USDA Homeland Security Office and the Department's ICS Training Coordinator, have agreed during a meeting with Osama El-Lissy (PPQ), Joe Anelli (VS), and Paul Silverio (MRPBS) on Thursday, May 6, 2004, to accommodate the immediate needs of PPQ and VS for the ICS training. They will move the previously planned training schedule of August/September forward to June 1, 2004 or sooner. PPQ is in the process of providing MS. Bezz with the names and corresponding e-mail addresses for the employees who would be receiving the initial training. Aglearn will automatically send an e-mail message to the designated PPQ employees with web address, user name, and password instructions.

## **Eastern Region table-top exercises:**

The Eastern Region has contracted with the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI) to conduct ICS table-top exercises for the SPHDs, SPROs, and emergency programs managers. Bill Newton, ER Program Manager, has planned three two-day sessions in Raleigh, NC. The training sessions are scheduled for June 15-16, July 13-14, and July 21-22, respectively.

## **Western Region table-top exercises:**

Tim McNairy and Sherry Sanderson of the WR are in the process of scheduling ICS table-top exercises. This reinforces continuity between regions, and ultimately strengthens our overall emergency response capabilities.

## **USDA ICS Incident Management Team (Command and General Staff Training):**

USDA Homeland Security Office will soon announce (this week) additional ICS training courses for the Incident Management Team Command and General Staff. The announcement has already been sent to sub-cabinet level and it should officially be communicated to agency heads within a few days. The training announcement will include the nomination and selection processes and course prerequisites for candidates. All USDA employees who have an interest in serving in the capacity of command and general staff positions on Incident Management Teams are encouraged to apply for this training opportunity. The training course is scheduled to occur at the Forest Service National Advanced Fire Training Institute in Tucson, AZ, from October 25-29, 2004.

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## **Incident Command Training Exercise Development Report:**

PPQ participated with VS, other USDA agencies (FSA, FSIS, NRCS), and trainers from the Forest Service to develop a one week training course on the Incident Command System for interagency participation geared to responding to plant and animal health, or food safety emergencies. The course will be take place in October in Tucson, AZ with six teams of the eight functional areas: Incident Command, Public Information, Liaison, Safety, Operations, Logistics, Planning, Finance and Administrative. Participants will be chosen based on the functional areas to be trained in. The first three days will involve learning the functions of their positions, team building and a scenario introduction. On the fourth day, each team will be given a simulation exercise to deal with, a scenario involving plant and animal health emergency. They will be coached and evaluated on how they handle the scenario and inputs during that day. PPQ hopes to have enough participants apply for two teams to be trained.

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